AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) Process module for ~~installation in~~ a processing station for performing a predetermined function, comprising a controller associated with a program control unit ~~into~~ which a program for controlling the process module is supplied, characterized in that the controller ~~comprises~~ includes a program data administrator unit which coordinates the transfer of the program associated with the process module ~~out of~~ from a program data memory into the program control unit so that the process module and/or the processing station is/are automatically programmed when the process module is installed in the processing station.

2. (original) Process module of claim 1, wherein the controller comprises the program data memory.

3. (original) Process module of claim 1, wherein the controller comprises the program control unit.

4. (original) Process module of claim 2, wherein the controller comprises the program control unit.

5. (original) Process module of claim 1, wherein the program control unit is provided as a microprocessor.

6.   (original)   Process module of claim 1, wherein program data administrator unit comprises a memory unit for storing data specific to the process module.

7.   (original)   Process module of claim 1, wherein the program data administrator unit can be connected through a bus to the program data memory.

8.   (currently amended) Processing station with at least one process module for performing a predetermined function, where the process module comprises a controller associated with a program control unit into which a program for controlling the process module is supplied and with a bus system for transferring data to the controller of the process module, characterized in that the controller comprises includes a program data administrator unit which co-ordinates the transfer of the program associated with the process module out of from the program data memory into the program control unit so that the process module and/or the processing station is/are automatically programmed when the process module is installed in the processing station.

9.   (original)   Processing station of claim 8, wherein a basis controller is provided and wherein the process module comprises an interface for connection to the basis controller.

10.   (original)   Processing station of claim 9, wherein the basis controller comprises the program control unit.

11.   (original)   Processing station of claim 8, wherein the program control unit is configured as a microcomputer.

12. (original) Processing station of claim 8, wherein several process modules are provided and wherein the programs associated with the process modules are supplied to the program control unit.

13. (original) Processing station of claim 12, wherein the program control unit comprises several microprocessors, so that the programs associated with the process modules are supplied to run in parallel on the different microprocessors.

14. (previously presented) Processing station of claim 13, wherein at least one of the microprocessors is provided in a controller of the process module.

15. (original) Processing station of claim 8, wherein the basis controller and/or the controller are configured to establish a connection with the program data memory, which lies outside of the processing station.

16. (original) Processing station of claim 15, wherein the connection to the program data memory takes place over the Internet, and wherein the program data memory is provided in a server connected to the Internet.

17. (previously presented) Method for starting up a processing station of claim 8, characterized in that after connection of a process module to the processing station via the interface, the program for controlling the process module is read out of the program data memory depending on the data specific to the process module stored in the program data administrator unit and is transferred to the program control unit.

18. (original) Method of claim 17, wherein the data specific to the process module comprise at least one of the following data: storage location of the program, target location for the transfer of the program and identification data of the process module.

19. (new) Process module for a processing station for performing a predetermined function, comprising a controller associated with a program control unit to which a program for controlling the process module is supplied, wherein the controller includes a program data administrator unit which stores information identifying the program data memory containing the program and coordinates the transfer of the program associated with the process module from said program data memory into the program control unit.

20. (new) Process module for a processing station for performing a predetermined function, comprising a controller associated with a program control unit to which a program for controlling the process module is supplied, wherein the controller includes a program data administrator unit which stores information identifying the program data memory containing the program and coordinates the transfer of the program associated with the process module from said program data memory into the program control unit, and wherein the controller further includes said program data memory.

21. (new) Processing station with at least one process module for performing a predetermined function and a basis controller coupled with said at least one process module, the process module comprising a controller associated with a program control unit to which a program for controlling the process module is supplied, wherein the controller includes a program data administrator unit which stores information identifying the program data memory containing the program and which coordinates the transfer of the program associated with the process module from said program data memory into the program control unit.

22.   (new) Processing station with at least one process module for performing a predetermined function and a basis controller coupled with said at least one process module, the process module comprising a controller associated with a program control unit to which a program for controlling the process module is supplied, wherein the controller includes a program data administrator unit which stores information identifying the program data memory containing the program and which coordinates the transfer of the program associated with the process module from said program data memory into the program control unit, and wherein the controller further includes said program data memory.

23.   (new) A processing station comprising one or more process modules for controlling one or more predetermined process functions in a manufacturing operation, said processing station including a basis controller for controlling the operation of said one or more process modules, and wherein each of said process modules comprises a process controller for controlling the performance of one of said predetermined process functions in accordance with a process control program, said process controller including a program data administrator unit which stores information identifying the program data memory containing said process control program and which further coordinates the transfer of said process control program from said program data memory into said basis controller and/or said process controller so that the process module and/or the processing station is/are automatically programmed when said process module is installed in said processing station.

24.   (new) Process module for installation in a processing station comprising one or more process modules for controlling one or more predetermined process functions in a manufacturing operation, said processing station including a basis controller for controlling the operation of said one or more process modules, and wherein said process module comprises a process controller for controlling the performance of one of said predetermined process

functions in accordance with a process control program, said process controller including a

program data administrator unit which stores information identifying the program data memory

containing said process control program and which further coordinates the transfer of said

process control program from said program data memory into said basis controller and/or said

process controller so that the process module and/or the processing station is/are automatically

programmed when said process module is installed in said processing station.